

Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church

Սուրբ Խաչ Հայ Կաթողիկէ Եկեղեցի

200 Lexington street, Belmont, MA 02478 – Tel: (617) 489 2280 – Fax: (617) 484 0218

E-mail: holycrossbostonma@gmail.com

Website: www.holycrossarmenian.org

Bulletin for Sunday 24 May 2020

Է. Կիրակի Յինանց Երկրորդ Ծաղկազարդ

Seventh Sunday of Easter time (50 days)

This Saturday and Sunday readings: **Acts 24:1-23** **Jn. 12:12-23**

Next Saturday and Sunday readings: **Acts 2:1-21** **Jn. 14:25-31**

Daily Holy Rosary: Mondays-Fridays is celebrated (and streamed) at 05:00 PM.

On Saturdays and feast days we celebrate the Holy Rosary following the Holy Mass.

On Sundays we celebrate the Holy Rosary following the Holy Mass.

If a family wish to be part of the online prayer of the Holy Rosary please let Father know.

You can download the Rosary booklet (two versions) from our Church's website using either of these links:

[https://www.holycrossarmenian.org/assets/Marian_Devotions/Marian_Devotion -
Rosary Song Book 2016.pdf](https://www.holycrossarmenian.org/assets/Marian_Devotions/Marian_Devotion_-_Rosary_Song_Book_2016.pdf)

[https://www.holycrossarmenian.org/assets/Marian_Devotions/ASDVADZAMOR-SOURP-
VARTARANE.pdf](https://www.holycrossarmenian.org/assets/Marian_Devotions/ASDVADZAMOR-SOURP-VARTARANE.pdf)

Saturday vigil (English) at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM (Boston Time)

God willing Holy Masses will be posted Live to our Facebook page
“<https://www.facebook.com/BostonArmenianCatholic/>”.

Please join us in the prayer during today's Holy Mass for the souls of; Sister **Nevart Soumako** (Egypt) requested by Holy Cross Parish. For the soul of **John Nazareth Najarian**, Requested by Ingedorg Najarian and Family (Saturday Vigil Mass). For the soul of **Marcel**

Bekandy (1st year), requested by her daughter Lina&Mark and George Terzian and her son Ramaez&Sally, Krystelle and Emeh Mardo. And for the soul of **Vahan Setian** (10 years), requested by Verna (Setian) Khantzian and son and daughter, Haro and Arevig Setian. May the Lord bless their souls and forgive their and our sins.

-Confession before or after Holy Mass is always welcomed.

Please remember Holy Cross Parish in your will

Prayer List: Please pray with us for the sick in the parish and especially for; **Yeghia Grigorian, Hovsep Topalian, Lucy Aylaian, Nerses Jamsakian** (Hagop's father in Aleppo), **Laith Kenaya** and **Ohanes Hassassian**. Please let the Church know if someone needs prayer and we can add him to this list as long as he wishes!

Sick in the parish: Please let Father know about anyone who is sick, homebound or for any reason cannot come to Church.

Confession on the first Sunday of Each Month: Please Note that Father **Stephen Bonian** is graciously helping our Parish, every first Sunday of Each month, by hearing our confessions.

Sunday Collection: our collection last Sunday 17 May 2020 was: \$1175, and from online donations: \$335 and from candles: \$4. (**suggested price for each candle is \$2**). Please note that our weekly expenses are around \$3000 and even when you are not attending the Church still have to pay bills. The church needs your financial support for its maintenance and non-discretionary expenses on a weekly and monthly basis. Your donations will facilitate its functioning on an efficient manner.

It's very easy to donate online by going to the church's website <https://www.holycrossarmenian.org> and click the donate button at the bottom of the page then follow the instructions.

You can make your weekly gift or donations for any other-directed purposes.

If you need donation envelopes please ask the Parish office to send you some.

Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church needs your financial support. May the Lord bless and compensate you all in this life and the next.

Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM in English: We have introduced the vigil Mass in English to our Mass schedule for all those who, for any reason, cannot make it to Sunday Mass.

Members' Dues: Dear Parishioners, we would like to remind you that each family is expected to pay \$100 annual dues in order to defray some of the overwhelming financial costs of our church.

Please find out from the church office if you are up to date with your dues. If you have paid, we thank you wholeheartedly, if not, we would appreciate very much if you can send your Church dues at your earliest convenience.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers for this Sunday were donated by **Joseph&Jane Hovnanian**, in memory of Charles, Zabel and Aram Keleshian. May the Lord bless their souls and compensate you many folds.

Virgin Mary altar Flowers: Flowers for the Virgin Mary was donated by **Rosette Helvadjian, Madeleine Derderian, Harout&Lena Sajonian** and **Sarkis&Zabel Santourian**. May the Lord bless and compensate her and her family many folds.

We have openings for all remaining Sundays in May and June 2020. Please let the parish office know if you wish to donate altar flowers for any given Sunday. (you can bring the flowers yourself or give a \$75 donation toward buying them.

Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: You are all invited to a Holy Mass dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on every first Friday of each month. Next will be on: **Friday the 05th of June 2020 at 07:00PM** followed by a Eucharistic adoration.

Houses blessing: Dear Parishioners, if you want your house to be blessed please let Father Mikael know. House blessing is an important instrument in the Church used to know people better and preferably have the whole family gathered in one place to meet the family especially those who comes less to services or prefer not to stay for social hours.

Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal: New members of all age groups are invited and welcome to join. **Next choir rehearsal is on the coming Wednesday 20th of May 2020 at 7:30 PM.**

Protecting God's Children: Dear Parishioners in order to comply with the demand to protect our youth in the Church and to continue what we have started with the seminar we had in September 2018 we are still required to complete a CODE of Conduct in the website of www.virtusonline.org If a CODE OF CONDUCT has not been completed, one should be able to go into the online training tab, do so, and then complete a background check. Especially when you see a similar message on your screen:

Your registration is not complete

You must complete a background check

As part of our efforts to maintain a safe environment for the children and volunteers of our diocese, we have chosen Selection.com to do all our background checks.

By clicking this button, you will be directed to their secure website called Fastrax.

Re-opening our Church

Dear Parishioners, in compliance with the requirements of State of Massachusetts Safety Standards to reopen Places of worship (see attached file) Starting this weekend 23rd – 24th of May 2020 we are introducing some changes:

- I. The Holy Masses will be celebrated with closed doors to control the number of people in the church building not to exceed the %40 required by the State. Please note that Masses will continue to be streamed online. And if anyone wishes to have confession and receive Holy Communion please call Father to make arrangements.
- II. Anyone wishing to be present please inform the Church office and be there 15 minutes before the beginning of the service and leave only after all is done.
- III. It is important to let the Church office know of who is coming to make arrangements because our church can only hold 36 people keeping the social distancing rules in case we will have more people wishing to come we will move the service down to the church hall where we can have twice that number.
- IV. We have a company doing the disinfecting and cleaning after each service.
- V. All people attending Holy Mass should wear a face mask to protect themselves and others. Also please consider having your own sanitizers if you need any.
- VI. Refrain from moving between floors within the church building and use only the facilities on the giving floor the service is in.
- VII. There will be no gathering or coffee hour at the end of the Holy Mass.

We all hope that these will be just temporary measures, it's a temptation that we all need to go through and endure. We thank you all for your understanding and may the Lord bless you all and keep you safe!



MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS



SOCIAL DISTANCING

All places of worship shall limit occupancy to 40 percent of the building's maximum permitted occupancy level as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder. The occupant count shall include all persons inside the place of worship, including attendees and staff.

Staff or attendants shall monitor the number of attendees entering the place of worship to ensure compliance with the maximum occupancy level.

Attendees who are not part of the same immediate household must be seated at least 6 feet apart. Members of the same immediate household are permitted to sit together and less than 6 feet apart.

If there is fixed seating, rows should be blocked off and kept empty to allow for sufficient distancing between rows.

All attendees and staff must wear face coverings or masks in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31 and the Department of Public Health's Guidance while inside and while entering and exiting places of worship or otherwise participating in in-person services, except where a person is unable to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition.

For children between age 2 and 5, the wearing of a face covering or mask is at the discretion of the child's parent or guardian. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a face covering or mask.

A person who declines to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.

Places of worship may refuse entry to a person who refuses to wear a face covering or mask for non-medical reasons.

Recommended best practices

If feasible, places of worship are encouraged to arrange online sign-up for services in advance in order to monitor and limit the number of attendees.

Places of worship are encouraged to place tape or other visual distancing markings on seating to delineate 4-foot separations and to post signage indicating the maximum number of persons permitted per row.

Provide ventilation for enclosed spaces where possible. For example, consider opening windows and doors to allow airflow.

Places of worship are encouraged to take steps to encourage orderly entering and exiting of services in a manner that encourages social distancing. For example:

- Signage or floor markings should be posted to have one-way aisles or otherwise direct attendees to follow certain pathways for entering and exiting the service.
- If a line forms outside of the service, those waiting should be directed to maintain social distancing. Tape or other markings on the ground outside of places of worship should be placed to encourage attendees to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Staff should direct people in high traffic areas to help maintain social distancing.
- Officials or other staff should direct successive, row-by-row exiting.



HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Places of worship shall ensure that attendees and employees have access to handwashing facilities, including soap and running water, and allow employees sufficient break time to wash hands, as necessary.

Recommended best practices

They are also encouraged to make alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol available, if possible.



STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Places of worship shall not have communal gathering pre or post service (e.g., coffee hours or other food services).

Places of worship running food pantries or other prepackage food distribution may continue to do so.

Any children services shall remain closed until such time that there is additional guidance.

If a place of worship learns that an attendee or employee or other worker has tested positive for COVID-19, it shall notify the local Board of Health (LBH) in the city or town where the place of worship is located and assist the LBH as reasonably requested to trace likely contacts and advise contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.

Recommended best practices

Places of worship are encouraged to notify the means to collect any financial contributions from attendees so as to eliminate shared contribution bags and baskets and to minimize contact. Consider setting up a no-touch method to collect contributions, and encouraging contributions through mail or electronic means.

Places of worship are encouraged to modify communal rituals, like taking communion or passing of the peace, so as to limit contact with others. Consider distributing, where applicable, prepackaged communion or sacraments.



CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Places of worship shall be cleaned and disinfected between each service, including disinfection of busy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., door knobs, bathrooms, microphones, shared instruments).

If a place of worship learns that an individual with COVID-19 attended a service or otherwise entered the place of worship, it shall conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidance.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Ensure >6ft between individuals

- All places of worship shall limit occupancy to 40 percent of the building's maximum permitted occupancy level as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder. The occupant count shall include all persons inside the place of worship, including attendees and staff.
- Monitor the number of attendees entering the place of worship to ensure compliance with the maximum occupancy level.
- Attendees who are not part of the same immediate household must be seated at least 6 feet apart. Members of the same immediate household are permitted to sit together and less than 6 feet apart.
- If there is front seating, rows should be blocked off and kept empty to allow for sufficient distancing between rows.
- All attendees and staff must wear face coverings or masks in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31 and the Department of Public Health's Guidance while inside and while entering and exiting places of worship or otherwise participating in in-person services, except where a person is unable to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition.
- For children between age 2 and 5, the wearing of a face covering or mask is at the discretion of the child's parent or guardian. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a face covering or mask.
- A person who declines to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.
- Places of worship may refuse entry to a person who refuses to wear a face covering or mask for non-medical reasons.
- If feasible, places of worship are encouraged to arrange online sign-up for services in advance in order to monitor and limit the number of attendees.
- Places of worship are encouraged to place tape or other visual distancing markings on seating to delineate 6-foot separations and to post signage indicating the maximum number of persons permitted per row.
- Promote ventilation for enclosed spaces where possible. For example, consider opening windows and doors to allow airflow.
- Places of worship are encouraged to take steps to encourage orderly entering and exiting of services in a manner that encourages social distancing.



HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Apply robust hygiene protocols

- Ensure that attendees and employees have access to handwashing facilities, including soap and running water, and allow employees sufficient break time to wash hands, as necessary. Places of worship are also encouraged to make alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol available, if possible.



STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Include safety procedures in the operations

- Places of worship shall not have communal gathering pre or post service (e.g., coffee hours or other food services).
- Places of worship running food pantries or other prepackaged food distribution may continue to do so.
- Any childcare services shall remain closed until such time that there is additional guidance.
- If a place of worship learns that an attendee or employee or other worker has tested positive for COVID-19, it shall notify the local Board of Health (LBH) in the city or town where the place of worship is located and assist the LBH as reasonably requested to trace likely contacts and advise contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.
- Places of worship are encouraged to modify the means to collect any financial contributions from attendees, so as to eliminate shared contribution trays and baskets and to minimize contact. Consider setting up a no-touch method to collect contributions, and encouraging contributions through mail or electronic means.
- Places of worship are encouraged to modify communal rituals, like taking communion or passing of the peace, so as to limit contact with others. Consider distributing, where applicable, prepackaged communion or sacraments.



CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Incorporate robust hygiene protocols

- Places of worship shall be cleaned and disinfected between each service, including disinfection of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, bathrooms, microphones, shared instruments).
- If a place of worship learns that an individual with COVID-19 attended a service or otherwise entered the place of worship, it shall conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidance.